

REMARKS

I. INITIAL MATTERS

Claims 1 - 4 stand as original claims. Claims 5 and 6 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1 - 6 are presently pending in the application. The Examiner has kindly acknowledged the receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents as well as the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119.

II. CLAIM REJECTION - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

A. Claims 1 and 3

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S.P. No. 5,757,110 (Motiduki). For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. In fact, the reference must teach the identical invention in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *See* M.P.E.P. § 2131. *See also* Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987); and Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Claim 1 recites an insulating plug with a body made of a glass fiber reinforced plastic. The Examiner alleges that Mitoduki discloses an insulating plug 30 with a body 31 made from a glass fiber reinforced plastic. However, all that Motiduki discloses is that the body 31 is made of

synthetic resin. There is no indication in Mitoduki that glass fibers are used to reinforce the synthetic resin. The Examiner does not point to any specific portion of Motiduki as disclosing the glass fiber reinforced plastic, and in fact there is no such portion. If the Examiner somehow thinks that the glass fibers are inherent (i.e., necessarily present) in synthetic resin, Applicants submit that this is clearly not correct.

Accordingly, at least for the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is believed to be patentable. Additionally, claim 3 should at least be patentable by virtue of its dependency upon claim 1. Furthermore, claims 2, 4, 5 and 6 should also be patentable at least by virtue of such dependency.

III. CLAIM REJECTION - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

A. Claims 2 and 4

Claims 2 and 4 stand rejected as allegedly being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Motiduki. For the following reasons, this rejection is also respectfully traversed.

The grounds of rejection in the Office Action dated November 19, 2002, at page 3, state that the use of a glass-fiber-reinforced plastic at 20 - 80 per cent of glass-fibers by weight in a polyphenylene sulfide resin would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, since it would be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use.

As for claim 2 (directed to the range of wt % of glass fiber and the type of resin), the Examiner provides absolutely no support for the contention that the claimed invention is “within the general skill of a worker in the art.” If such features were so well known, presumably the Examiner would be able to identify at least one prior art reference which teaches this. Yet, the

Examiner has failed to do this. Such a rejection without analysis is clearly impermissible. *See* M.P.E.P. § 2141.

Accordingly, at least for the foregoing reasons, claims 2 and 4 are believed to be patentable.

IV. NEW DEPENDENT CLAIMS

New dependent claims 5 and 6 are hereby added. They are fully supported at page 14, lines 19 - 22, of the original specification. Further, an advantage of the recited range is exemplified by the dimensional accuracy discussed in page 16, lines 11 - 13, of the original specification.

V. CONCLUSION

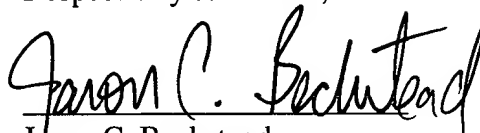
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/899,281

Attorney Docket No.: Q65287

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Jason C. Beckstead
Registration No. 48,232

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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